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Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USBERL 00987 01 OF 04 201225Z  
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
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AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO AMEMBASSY EMBBERLIN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 USBERLIN 00987

DEPT FOR EUR/CE, BONN FOR JEFF GALLUP

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TAGS: WSB, BQG, GC, GE  
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF BERLIN PRESS

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.  
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. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE SUMMARY OF PRESS REPORTS  
AND COMMENTARY PREPARED EACH DAY BY U.S. MISSION  
BERLIN. IT INCLUDES REPORTS FROM NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED  
IN WEST BERLIN AND FROM THE MAJOR EAST GERMAN  
NEWSPAPERS. MISSION BERLIN TRANSMITS THIS SUMMARY FOR  
THE SPECIAL USE OF EMBASSY BONN AND WASHINGTON AGENCIES  
WHO ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS IN BERLIN ON A  
DAILY BASIS. IT IS NOT PART OF THE DAILY MEDIA REPORT  
SERIES WHICH IS PRODUCED BY EMBASSY BONN FOR ALL OF WEST  
GERMANY, INCLUDING WEST BERLIN.

REVIEW - WEST PRESS

. WEST BERLIN DAILIES HIGHLIGHT INCREASING U.S.  
PRESSURE ON BONN TO EXTRADITE LEBANESE HIJACKER MOHAMMED  
ALI HAMADEI, WHO, HOWEVER, IS LIKELY TO STAY IN THE FRG  
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PAGE 02 USBERL 00987 01 OF 04 201225Z

SO LONG AS TWO GERMANS ARE HELD CAPTIVE BY EXTREMISTS IN  
BEIRUT (DER TAGESSPIEGEL); A BOMB ATTACK IN DJIBOUTI

n/a  
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Page: 1

KILLING THREE GERMAN SCIENTISTS (BILDZEITUNG); THE FRG BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, WITH FINANCE MINISTER STOLTENBERG CONSIDERING INCREASES IN EXCISE TAXES (DER TAGESSPIEGEL); NEWLY APPOINTED SPD BOARD SPOKESWOMAN MATHIOPOULOS' DETERMINATION NOT TO GIVE UP HER OFFICE (VOLKSBLATT BERLIN); AND FORMER CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT'S CALL FOR STRONGER LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE SPD AND A SPEEDY REPLACEMENT OF PARTY CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT BY HANS-JOCHEN VOGEL (BERLINER MORGENPOST).

. OTHER FRONTPAGE STORIES INCLUDE U.S. SENATE APPROVAL OF \$40 MILLION IN CONTRA AID (DIE WELT); SYRIA'S EXERTION OF INFLUENCE TO PREVENT THE KILLING OF FOREIGN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON (DER TAGESSPIEGEL); THE INCREASE TO 14 IN THE NUMBER OF WORKERS WHO ABSORBED PLUTONIUM RADIATION AT THE NUKEM NUCLEAR PLANT IN HANAU (DER TAGESSPIEGEL); THE HEATED BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON FRG NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY (BERLINER MORGENPOST, VOLKSBLATT BERLIN, DIE WELT); THE FAILURE TO REACH AN FRG-SOVIET MARITIME TRAFFIC AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF CONTROVERSY ON THE INCLUSION OF BERLIN (BERLINER MORGENPOST); AND A VOLKSBLATT INTERVIEW WITH FORMER SOVIET AMBASSADOR VALENTIN FALIN ON WAYS TO IMPROVE FRG-SOVIET RELATIONS (VOLKSBLATT BERLIN).

OTHER WEST BERLIN NEWS:

. THE TALKS IN GENEVA BETWEEN THE EC AND COMECON ON THE ASSUMPTION OF FORMAL RELATIONS, ORIGINALLY SLATED TO LAST TWO DAYS, WERE PROLONGED BY ANOTHER DAY BECAUSE OF THE EC'S INSISTENCE ON INCLUDING WEST BERLIN AS PART OF  
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PAGE 03      USBERL 00987 01 OF 04 201225Z

THE TWELVE-STATE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN ALL JOINT STATEMENTS. COMECON DEPUTY SECRETARY KUROVSKI WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT REACHING AN ACCORD SOON (DER TAGESSPIEGEL).

. U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ENVOY PAUL BREMER TOLD A SENATE WORKING GROUP ON TERRORISM WEDNESDAY THAT U.S. AMBASSADOR BURT IS MEETING WITH BONN OFFICIALS THREE TO FOUR TIMES A WEEK TO DISCUSS EXTRADITION OF LEBANESE MOHAMMED ALI HAMADEI, WHO WAS APPREHENDED AT FRANKFURT AIRPORT ON JAN. 13 AND IS CHARGED BY THE U.S. WITH

MURDER AND AIR PIRACY (DER TAGESSPIEGEL).

. ON THE ARD SHOW "BRENNPUNKT" (FOCUS), GOVERNING MAYOR DIEPGEN SAID THAT HE GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT GDR CHIEF HONECKER MIGHT BE PREPARED TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION IN AND AROUND BERLIN. DIEPGEN REFUSED TO BE PRESSURED ON A DECISION TO ACCEPT HONECKER'S INVITATION TO ATTEND THE EAST BERLIN CEREMONY IN OCTOBER. FRG CHANCELLERY MINISTER SCHAEUBLE ON THE SAME SHOW STRESSED THAT ALL STEPS REGARDING THE INVITATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH THE ALLIES (BERLINER MORGENPOST PG. 2)

. THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FRG AFFAIRS AND ALL-BERLIN QUESTIONS, TOGETHER WITH ITS CHAIRMAN WOHLRABE, ARRIVED IN LEIPZIG ON THURSDAY FOR A THREE-DAY VISIT TO THE SPRING FAIR. AS IN THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS, THEIR PRINCIPAL PURPOSE IS TO MEET WITH BERLIN EXHIBITORS AT THE FAIR AND TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH LEIPZIG FAIR DIRECTOR FISCHER, GDR FOREIGN TRADE CHAMBER DIRECTOR GENERAL LEMNITZER AND OTHERS (DER

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00987 02 OF 04 201226Z  
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
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USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1419  
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Page: 4

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF BERLIN PRESS

TAGESSPIEGEL).

. GDR CHIEF HONECKER IN HIS TALKS WITH DIEPGEN REPORTEDLY GAVE A GREEN LIGHT FOR A WEST BERLIN-GDR-FRG ELECTRICITY NETWORK (DIE WELT PG. 1).

. AT THE LEIPZIG FAIR, THE "REICHSBAHN" PRESENTED A NEW TRAIN FOR EAST BERLIN'S S-BAHN. 182 CARS ARE TO BE PRODUCED BY 1990 (DER TAGESSPIEGEL).

. AT ITS MAIN CONVENTION IN BERLIN, THE GERMAN RADIO AND TELEVISION UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION ARD HAILED THE STATE MEDIA AGREEMENT RECENTLY REACHED BY THE FRG STATE MINISTER PRESIDENTS FOR HAVING PREVENTED A COLLAPSE OF ARD. SFB INTENDANT HERRMANN AND OTHERS CRITICIZED THE INTRODUCTION IN 1988 OF A TWO-PERCENT SURCHARGE TO HELP  
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PAGE 02            USBERL 00987 02 OF 04 201226Z

FUND TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT FOR PRIVATE RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS (DER TAGESSPIEGEL).

. BERLIN SPD SPOKESMAN WIEGREFFE WILL RESIGN IN LATE APRIL TO BECOME THE SPD-AFFILIATED FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ASIAN RESEARCH AND INFORMATION CENTER FOR MASS MEDIA (AMIC) IN SINGAPORE. IN THE FALL, WIEGREFFE WILL BE APPOINTED AMIC DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (DER TAGESSPIEGEL ET AL).

. FORMER FINANCE SENATOR HOPPE HAS BEEN MENTIONED WITHIN FDP CIRCLES AS ANOTHER CANDIDATE FOR PARTY CHAIRMAN IN THE ELECTION ON SATURDAY. HE IS TO BE PROPOSED AS A COMPROMISE CANDIDATE TO SERVE AS INTERIM CHAIRMAN FOR ONE YEAR. THE FDP SPECIAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE MANIPULATIONS IN LAST WEEKEND'S PARTY BOARD ELECTION SUBMITTED ITS REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TOMORROW'S ELECTION (BERLINER MORGENPOST).

. MAYOR DIEPGEN ON THURSDAY OPENED THE BERLIN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY'S CONTINUING EDUCATION FAIR ("WEITERBILDUNGSMESSE BERLIN 87"), WHICH FOCUSES ON FUTURE-ORIENTED PROFESSIONS (DER TAGESSPIEGEL).

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Page: 4

. A COMPUTER AT THE FREE UNIVERSITY BEGAN FOUR WEEKS  
AGO TO REGISTER ALL AIDS CASES IN THE FRG (MOST PAPERS).

. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' LEGAL COMMITTEE  
YESTERDAY ADJOURNED UNTIL THE FALL A MOVE BY THE AL ON  
ESTABLISHING A DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH CENTER ON THE  
NAZI ERA (DER TAGESSPIEGEL).  
REVIEW - EAST PRESS

. TOP STORIES ARE THE PRESENTATION OF GOLD MEDALS TO  
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PAGE 03            USBERL 00987 02 OF 04 201226Z

TOP PRODUCTS AT THE LEIPZIG FAIR, WHERE BUSINESS  
CONTINUES TO BE LIVELY (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, NATIONAL  
ZEITUNG); ACTIVITIES OF THE EAST GERMAN CDU AT THE  
LEIPZIG FAIR (NEUE ZEIT); LETTERS OF WELCOME BY THE SED  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE EAST GERMAN CDU AND NDPD TO THE  
11TH CONGRESS OF THE EAST GERMAN SORBS (A SLAVIC  
MINORITY), OPENING IN COTTBUS TODAY (ALL PAPERS); THE  
CONSULTATIONS OF THE NDPD BOARD'S SECRETARIAT WITH EAST  
GERMAN MAYORS, DISCUSSING WITH THEM THE TASKS FOR  
SAFEGUARDING PEACE (NATIONAL ZEITUNG); AND THE MOSCOW  
ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIAN REPRESENTATIVES ON  
MEASURES FOR SAFEGUARDING PEACE, ALSO ATTENDED BY A  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EAST GERMAN CDU (NEUE ZEIT).

. FURTHER FRONTPAGE ITEMS INCLUDE THE ANNOUNCEMENT  
THAT AN ASIAN-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR  
DISARMAMENT, ARRANGED BY THE UN DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE,  
WILL TAKE PLACE IN PEKING, PRC, FROM MARCH 23 TO 27  
(NEUES DEUTSCHLAND); THE OPINION OF SWEDISH PARLIAMENT  
PRESIDENT INGEMUND BERGTSSON THAT THE CREATION OF A  
NUCLEAR ARMS FREE ZONE IN NORTHERN EUROPE WOULD BE AN  
IMPORTANT STEP IN THE PROCESS OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT FOR  
THE WHOLE CONTINENT (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND); THE EUROPEAN  
ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS' LETTER TO EUROPEAN CATHOLICS,  
URGING THEM TO DO EVERYTHING TO PRESERVE PEACE (NEUES  
DEUTSCHLAND); A "NEW YORK TIMES" COMMENTARY ARGUING  
AGAINST THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO REINTERPRET  
THE ABM TREATY (BERLINER ZEITUNG); A REPORT IN  
THURSDAY'S "NEW YORK TIMES," ACCORDING TO WHICH THE CIA  
IS SUPPLYING THE CONTRAS WITH PLANS FOR CIVILIAN TARGETS  
IN NICARAGUA (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND); THE INCREASE IN THE  
NUMBER OF SOCIAL WELFARE RECIPIENTS IN WEST BERLIN TO

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PAGE 01            USBERL 00987 03 OF 04 201227Z  
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
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UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 USBERLIN 00987

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150,000 (BERLINER ZEITUNG); AND THE SED CENTRAL  
COMMITTEE'S CONGRATULATIONS TO DEPUTY GDR STATE COUNCIL  
CHAIRMAN EGON KRENZ ON HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY THURSDAY, WHEN  
HE RECEIVED THE "NATIONAL MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL IN  
GOLD" AS WELL AS THE SOVIET "ORDER OF FRIENDSHIP AMONG  
PEOPLES" (ALL PAPERS).

MORE NEWS:

. GDR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTER DR. HERBERT WEIZ  
ON THURSDAY RECEIVED BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG'S ECONOMICS AND  
TECHNOLOGY MINISTER MARTIN HERZOG IN LEIPZIG FOR TALKS  
ON CHANCES FOR PRACTICAL COOPERATION IN SCIENCE,  
TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMICS (MOST PAPERS).

. THE ERLANGEN CITY COUNCIL RATIFIED THURSDAY AN  
ARRANGEMENT ON THE CITY PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ERLANGEN,  
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PAGE 02            USBERL 00987 03 OF 04 201227Z

FRG AND JENA, GDR (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND).

. THE 12TH SESSION OF THE MIXED GDR-CUBAN COMMISSION ON SEAGOING TRAFFIC WAS CONCLUDED ON THURSDAY WITH THE SIGNING OF THE ANNUAL TRANSPORT AGREEMENT (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND).

. A SEVERE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT OCCURRED ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON ON THE AUTOBAHN HIGHWAY NEAR FRANKFURT/ODER WHEN A GDR CAR COMING FROM FRANKFURT GOT ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD AND HIT A FRG TRUCK. THREE PEOPLE IN THE CAR WERE KILLED (MOST PAPERS).

. IN 1986, A TOTAL OF 45,203 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS OCCURRED IN THE GDR. THIS FIGURE WAS LESS THAN 1985 DESPITE INCREASING TRAFFIC, HERBERT MALLY, HEAD OF THE TRAFFIC POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, ANNOUNCED (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND).

. "KING OF ROCK'N SOUL" SOLOMON BURKE AND SOUL SINGER BARBARA COLE, STARS OF THE TWO-DAY CONCERT OF THE "NEW ORLEANS SOUL FESTIVAL" IN EAST BERLIN, PAID A VISIT THURSDAY TO THE MONUMENT TO THE VICTIMS OF FASCISM AND MILITARISM ON UNTER DEN LINDEN (BERLINER ZEITUNG, WITH PHOTO).

COMMENTARY - WEST PRESS

U.S.-ISRAEL-SOUTH AFRICA RELATIONS

. THE INDEPENDENT DER TAGESSPIEGEL IN A FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL ON ISRAEL'S MILITARY COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA SAYS: "SINCE IMPATIENCE IN THE WEST AND  
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PAGE 03            USBERL 00987 03 OF 04 201227Z

ESPECIALLY IN THE U.S. ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA IS INCREASING AND PRESSURE EXERTED THROUGH SANCTIONS, THE SITUATION HAS BECOME MORE PROBLEMATIC FOR ISRAEL. IT HAS BEEN PUT IN A DILEMMA, PRIMARILY BY A U.S. LAW WHICH AUTHORIZES CONGRESS TO CUT AID TO COUNTRIES WHICH MAINTAIN MILITARY COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THAT IN FACT IS THE MOST SENSATIVE POINT, BECAUSE ISRAEL HAS NOT HEDED THE ARMS

EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UN AND OBSERVED BY MOST OTHER COUNTRIES.....

. "THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PERES' ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO FORGO FURTHER CONTRACTS ON ARMS SHIPMENTS AND WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IS MOTIVATED BY THE WISH TO SOOTHE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., (RELATIONS) WHICH ARE CURRENTLY STRAINED BY THE POLLARD SPY AFFAIR."

DIEPGEN'S INVITATIONS

. THE INDEPENDENT-CONSERVATIVE BERLINER MORGENPOST IN A PAGE-TWO EDITORIAL SAYS: "AS CAN EASILY BE LEARNED FROM CHANCELLOR KOHL'S GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR DIEPGEN BEGAN HIS WALL-CROSSING RELAXATION EXERCISES WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE FRG GOVERNMENT. HIS TASK IS TO TEST WHETHER GORBACHEV'S SIGNALLED READINESS FOR WORLDWIDE UNDERSTANDING COULD BE USED FOR THE PEOPLE IN OUR DIVIDED CITY, WHO ESPECIALLY SUFFER FROM THE RIGIDITY OF THE SOVIET-EAST GERMAN POLICY OF FENCING-OFF.....

. "THE TESTS MAY HAVE THIS OR THAT RESULT. SKEPTICISM IS DEMANDED IN DEALING WITH THE GDR. DIEPGEN, WHO

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00987 04 OF 04 201228Z  
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
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UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 USBERLIN 00987



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DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS WAS CONSIDERED BY SOME AS A DEWY-EYED HESITATOR, IS AMONG THE SKEPTICS.

. "THE FACT THAT HE NEVERTHELESS DECIDED TO TAKE A RISK GAINED HIM RESPECT AND SUPPORT FROM AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND PROBABLY AMONG MANY CITIZENS. THIS WAS SO PARTLY BECAUSE SOME MEMBERS OF HIS OWN CAMP MADE HIM THE TARGET OF UNFAIR ATTACKS.

. "THE POSSIBILITIES FOR MOVEMENT IN AND AROUND BERLIN ARE SMALL. BUT IS IT NOT WORTH TRYING TO SEE IF THERE IS A CHANCE TO MAKE THE WALL MORE PERMEABLE AND REVOKE THE TERRIBLE ORDER TO SHOOT-TO-KILL? AS THINGS ARE, THAT WILL REQUIRE TALK. AFTER ALL, IF THAT DAY COMES, IT WILL REQUIRE MUCH TALK TO ACHIEVE WHAT CONCERNS US AT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02            USBERL 00987 04 OF 04 201228Z

HEART, GERMAN UNITY AND FREEDOM IN A UNITED EUROPE....

. "YET THERE ARE JUSTIFIABLE OBJECTIONS TO DIEPGEN'S RELAXATION EXERCISES. THE ALLIES ARE NOT WITHOUT REASON IN TAKING THEIR TIME TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION WHETHER DIEPGEN SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE EAST BERLIN CEREMONY....

. "LET'S WAIT AND SEE. A VIGOROUS 'NAY' WOULD ONLY BE APPROPRIATE IF DIEPGEN LOST SIGHT OF THE SHORT-TERM GOAL WHICH MUST BE THE ONLY CONSIDERATION: TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION OF BERLINERS IN BOTH PARTS OF THE CITY SO LONG AS REUNIFICATION HAS NOT BEEN ATTAINED."

COMMENTARY - EAST PRESS

FRG CHANCELLOR KOHL'S GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

. SED ORGAN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND IN A PAGE TWO-COMMENTARY CRITICIZED FRG CHANCELLOR HELMUT KOHL FOR HIS "HESITATING ATTITUDE" TOWARDS THE "DYNAMIC PEACE

OFFENSIVE" OF GORBACHEV AND HONECKER. THE PAPER SAYS:  
"WHERE DOES KOHL LIVE AND WHAT IS HE WAITING FOR?  
...RATHER IT IS TRUE THAT IT HAS LONG BEEN TIME FOR HIM  
TO ACT... IT SEEMS THAT BONN HAS GREAT DIFFICULTY  
FREEING ITSELF FROM WASHINGTON'S PATRONAGE, AND THIS AT  
A TIME WHEN THE MEN AROUND REAGAN ARE DEEPLY ENTANGLED  
IN THEIR OWN BUSINESS.

. "EXAMPLE NUMBER TWO: DESPITE NUMEROUS REMARKS ON  
INTER-GERMAN RELATIONS, THE CHANCELLOR HAD NO WORD ON  
HONECKER'S PROPOSAL THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH  
GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CARRY OUT AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON HOW  
BONN AND BERLIN MIGHT BECOME ACTIVE IN THE QUESTION OF  
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USBERL 00987 04 OF 04 201228Z

NUCLEAR INFS. THE REASON FOR KOHL'S SILENCE WAS HARDLY  
A BLACKOUT...."

COMMUNIST WEST BERLIN PAPER ON EAST-WEST DIALOGUE

. SED ORGAN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND CARRIES ON PAGE TWO THE  
FULL TEXT OF A COMMENTARY BY THE WEST BERLIN SEW ORGAN  
"DIE WAHRHEIT," ENTITLED "THE SPIRIT OF THE ERA IS  
DIALOGUE." IT MOCKED WHAT IT CALLED THE "GROWING  
UNREST" AMONG THE "GDROGOLISTS" IN THE FRG AND WEST  
BERLIN ON THE INCREASING TRAFFIC OF FRG POLITICAL  
LEADERS TO THE GDR. "THE GDR LEADERS' INTEREST IN THE  
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH WEST BERLIN CANNOT BE  
DOUBTED. NOR OBVIOUSLY CAN THAT OF THOSE GOVERNING IN  
THE SCHUENEBERG CITY HALL. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF  
MEN ON BOTH SIDES WANT THIS NORMALIZATION. IT LIES IN  
THE INTEREST OF SAFEGUARDING PEACE AND OF RENOUNCING  
FORCE, AS FORMULATED IN THE FIRST PART OF THE  
QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT....

. "THE COMING TO TERMS WITH THE REALITIES IN THIS AREA  
AND THE WILL TO PROMOTE NORMALIZATION BETWEEN WEST  
BERLIN AND THE GDR BECAUSE THIS SERVES DETENTE -- THIS  
IS ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TIME,  
WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE. THE FUTURE LIES ONLY  
HERE." KORNBLUM

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED  
n/a

Page: 11

NNNN

n/a  
UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 11